

Allowance After Board Decision

On 12/08/2009, the Board reversed the Examiner's rejections of claims 4-10 and 37-43 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Bhaskaran.

The Board entered a new ground of rejection of the pending claims under 35 USC 101. The new ground of rejection is overcome by the following Examiner Amendment.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Nelson on 01/06/2010.

4. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 37 wherein:

the model further includes representations of further information; and

the interface permits the person to access the further information.

5. (currently amended) The system set forth in claim 4 wherein:

the interface further permits the ~~person~~ to modify the further information.

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6. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 5 wherein:

the further information is a document that is accessible to the system.

7. (currently amended) The system set forth in claim 5 wherein:

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the further information is a message sent to the person by another person of the
persons.

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8. (currently amended) The system set forth in claim 5 wherein:

the further information is an alert that indicates a change in the model that is
relevant to the person.

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9. (currently amended) The system set forth in claim 5 wherein:

the further information is a reminder generated by the system for the person.

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10. (currently amended) The system set forth in claim 5 wherein:

the further information is a discussion concerning the model entity among the
persons.

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37. (currently amended) A system for supporting management of a collaborative
activity by persons involved therein, the persons not being specialists in information
technology, the system being implemented using a processor and a storage device
accessible to the processor, and the system comprising:

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accessible to a processor,

a representation of a model of the collaborative activity in the storage device, the
model of the collaborative activity including model entities that are organized into

hierarchies and provide access to information concerning the collaborative activity,

the model entities having types including

a goal model entity type, model entities of the type representing goals
and/or projects of the collaborative activity and

an initiative model entity type, model entities of the type serving to relate
goal model entities across the model, and

the hierarchies including

a goal hierarchy whose members include at least one goal model entity, a given goal model entity belonging to only a single goal hierarchy and

an initiative hierarchy whose members include at least one initiative model entity, each initiative model entity being capable of having as children one or more

initiative model ~~entities~~ and/or one or more goal model entities from one or more of the goal hierarchies; and

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a graphical user interface for the system, ~~the graphical user interface being provided by the processor to a person of the persons, the processor providing outputs via the graphical user interface to the person and responding to inputs via the graphical user interface from the person by performing~~ operations on a model entity including

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creating, modifying, and/or deleting the model entity, assigning the model entity to a parent in a hierarchy, accessing and/or modifying the information concerning the collaborative activity via the model entity, and ~~displaying the model entity in a hierarchy~~ of the hierarchies to which the model ~~entity~~ belongs.

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38. (currently amended) The system for supporting management of a collaborative activity set forth in claim 37 wherein:

the model entity types further include a domain model entity type, model entities of the type serving to relate goal hierarchies across the model; and

the hierarchies further include a domain hierarchy whose members include at least one domain model entity, each ~~domain model entity~~ being capable of having as children one or more domain model entities and/or one or more goal hierarchies.

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39. (currently amended) The system for supporting management of a collaborative activity set forth in claim 37 wherein:

the graphical user interface includes a display having a first part in which the model entities of the hierarchy are displayed and a simultaneously visible second part in which a model entity selected by the user from the hierarchy is displayed.

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40. (previously presented) The system for supporting management of a collaborative activity set forth in claim 37 wherein:

any of the model entities is capable of providing access to information concerning the collaborative activity.

41. (currently amended) The system for supporting management of a collaborative activity set forth in claim 37 wherein the system further comprises:

access control information accessible to the processor, the access control information controlling access by individual ones of the persons to individual ones of the model entities;

the operations which the processor performs for a given person on a given model entity are determined by the access control information for the given person and the given model entity; and

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the operations which the processor performs include controlling access to the model entity.

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42. (currently amended) The system for supporting management of a collaborative activity set forth in claim 37 wherein:

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the operations which the processor performs includes displaying model entities
 as ordered by a value in the information concerning the collaborative activity to which
 the model entities give access.

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43. (currently amended) A data storage device, the data storage device being
 characterized in that:

the data storage device contains a program which, when executed in a computer
 system, implements a system for supporting management of a collaborative activity by
persons involved therein, the persons not being specialists in information technology,
the system being implemented using a processor in the computer system and a storage
device in the computer system which is accessible to the processor and the system
comprising:

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claim 37

a representation of a model of the collaborative activity in the storage device, the
model of the collaborative activity including model entities that are organized into
hierarchies and provide access to information concerning the collaborative activity,

the model entities having types including

a goal model entity type, model entities of the type representing goals
and/or projects of the collaborative activity and

an initiative model entity type, model entities of the type serving to relate
goal model entities across the model, and

the hierarchies including

a goal hierarchy whose members include at least one goal model entity, a
given goal model entity belonging to only a single goal hierarchy and

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_____ an initiative hierarchy whose members include at least one initiative model entity, each initiative model entity being capable of having as children one or more initiative model ~~entities~~ and/or one or more goal model entities from one or more of the goal hierarchies; and

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_____ a graphical user interface for the system, the graphical user interface being provided by the processor to a person of the persons, the processor providing outputs via the graphical user interface to the person and responding to inputs via the graphical user interface from the person by performing operations on a model entity including creating, modifying, and/or deleting the model entity, assigning the model entity to a parent in a hierarchy, accessing and/or modifying the information concerning the collaborative activity via the model entity, and displaying the model entity in a hierarchy of the hierarchies to which the model entity belongs.

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

Updated searches were performed on the amended claim language.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art neither anticipates nor renders obvious the combination of, inter alia, of representative claim 37:

_____ a representation of a model of the collaborative activity in the storage device, the model of the collaborative activity including model entities that are organized into hierarchies and provide access to information concerning the collaborative activity, the model entities having types including
 a goal model entity type, model entities of the type representing goals and/or projects of the collaborative activity and
 an initiative model entity type, model entities of the type serving to relate goal model entities across the model, and
 the hierarchies including

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a goal hierarchy whose members include at least one goal model entity, a given goal model entity belonging to only a single goal hierarchy and an initiative hierarchy whose members include at least one initiative model entity, each initiative model entity being capable of having as children one or more initiative model entities and/or one or more goal model entities from one or more of the goal hierarchies; and

a graphical user interface for the system, the graphical user interface being provided by the processor to person of the persons, the processor providing outputs via the graphical user interface to the person and responding to inputs via the graphical user interface from the person, by performing operations on a model entity including creating, modifying, and/or deleting the model entity, assigning the model entity to a parent in a hierarchy, accessing and/or modifying the information concerning the collaborative activity via the model entity, and displaying the model entity in a hierarchy of the hierarchies to which the model entity belongs.

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The closest prior art of record, Bhaskaran (US 6157915), neither anticipates nor

renders obvious the combination of features noted above.

The closest non-patent literature is Zimmerman, Open Plan, Cited by the Examiner on 11/07/2005. However, Zimmerman neither anticipates nor renders obvious the combination of features noted above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES ZURITA whose telephone number is (571)272-6766. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571)272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/James Zurita/
James Zurita
Primary Examiner
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01/06/2010